

MAR 08 2019

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

DECLARING JUNE 27 OF EACH YEAR AS POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS INJURY
AWARENESS DAY AND DESIGNATING THE MONTH OF JUNE OF EACH
YEAR AS POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS INJURY AWARENESS MONTH IN
HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, all citizens of the United States possess the
2 basic human right to the preservation of personal dignity; and
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4 WHEREAS, all citizens of the United States deserve the
5 investment of every possible resource to ensure their lasting
6 physical, mental, and emotional well-being; and
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8 WHEREAS, the diagnosis known as Post-Traumatic Stress
9 Disorder (PTSD) was first recognized and defined by the American
10 Psychiatric Association in 1980 to more accurately understand
11 and treat veterans who had endured severe operational combat
12 stress; and
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14 WHEREAS, combat stress injuries have historically been
15 unjustly portrayed as a mental illness caused by a preexisting
16 flaw of character or ability, and that the word "disorder"
17 carries a stigma that perpetuates this misconception, which can
18 discourage the injured from seeking proper and timely medical
19 treatment; and
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21 WHEREAS, referring to the complications from combat
22 operational stress as a disorder perpetuates the stigma of and
23 bias against mental illness; and
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25 WHEREAS, it has been shown through electro-magnetic imaging
26 that post-traumatic stress conditions are more accurately
27 described as an injury rather than as a disorder; and



1 WHEREAS, severe post-traumatic stress is a very common and
2 treatable injury to the brain, which can occur following extreme
3 traumatic events including, but not limited to, interpersonal
4 violence, combat, life-threatening accidents, or natural
5 disasters; and

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7 WHEREAS, referring to the condition as Post-Traumatic
8 Stress Injury (PTSI) is less stigmatizing and viewed as more
9 honorable, and this designation can favorably influence those
10 affected and encourage them to seek treatment without fear of
11 retribution or shame; and

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13 WHEREAS, while all citizens suffering from PTSI deserve
14 compassion and consideration, those men and women of the United
15 States Armed Forces who have received these wounds in action
16 against an enemy of the United States deserve our special
17 tribute and acknowledgement; and

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19 WHEREAS, PTSI is an injury that is repairable, and timely
20 treatment can diminish complications and prevent suicides among
21 the injured; and

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23 WHEREAS, Michigan was the first state to pass a Concurrent
24 Resolution recognizing a PTSI awareness day in 2014 and since
25 that time 39 other states, as well as the United States House of
26 Representatives, have passed similar Concurrent Resolutions
27 officially proclaiming support for PTSI awareness; now,
28 therefore,

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30 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
31 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2019, the House of
32 Representatives concurring, that the twenty-seventh day of June
33 of each year shall be designated as Post-Traumatic Stress Injury
34 Awareness Day; and

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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the month of June of each year
37 shall be designated as Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness
38 Month in Hawaii; and

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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health and
41 the United States Department of Veteran Affairs are urged to
42 continue working to educate victims of interpersonal violence,



1 combat, life-threatening accidents, or natural disasters and
 2 their families, as well as the general public, about the causes,
 3 symptoms, and treatment of post-traumatic stress injury; and
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Concurrent Resolution be
 6 transmitted to the Governor for appropriate proclamation and
 7 execution and to the Secretary of State of the United States for
 8 appropriate publication and preservation; and
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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 11 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the United States
 12 Secretary of Veteran Affairs; Governor; Director of Health;
 13 Director of the State Office of Veterans Services; and the
 14 Executive Director of Honor For All, a non-profit organization
 15 dedicated to eliminating the stigma attached to post-traumatic
 16 stress, and to preserving the dignity of the injured while
 17 working to avert impulsive or dangerous behavior which might
 18 lead to suicide.
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